

**Listing of the Claims:**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method to read (N) sequential files written to an information storage medium, and then skip the next (M) sequential files, wherein said information storage medium is disposed in a data storage device, comprising the following steps in the following order: The method of claim 1, further comprising the following steps in the following order:

reading (N-x) of said (N) files;

identifying said (M) files;

reading the remaining (x) files;

skipping said (M) files;

wherein (x) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N-1).

4. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said data storage device is capable of communicating with a host computer, further comprising, after reading said (N-x) files, the steps of:

providing said (N-x) files to said host computer;

receiving said (N-x) files by said host computer after said providing step;

generating a first command complete signal by said host computer after said receiving step.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said data storage device further comprises a memory, further comprising, after said generating step, the steps of:

issuing a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set by said host computer;

receiving said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set by said data storage device;

writing said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory;

generating a second command complete signal by said data storage device after said writing step.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of receiving a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD (Y,M) command, wherein (Y) comprises the number of filemarks in the (x) files.

7. (original) The method of claim 3, wherein said information storage medium comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said data storage device comprises a tape drive comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files comprises a file end, further comprising the steps of:

moving said magnetic tape in a first direction during said identifying step and said reading steps;

stopping said magnetic tape when said tape head reaches said file end; and

moving said tape in a second direction while skipping said (M) files, wherein said first direction is opposite said second direction.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code disposed therein to read (N) sequential files written to an information storage medium, and then skip the next (M) sequential files, wherein said information storage medium is disposed in said article of manufacture, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect in the following order: ~~The article of manufacture of claim 10, the computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect in the following order:~~

reading (N-x) of said (N) files;

identifying said (M) files;

reading the remaining (x) files;

skipping said (M) files;

wherein (x) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N-1).

12. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein said article of manufacture is capable of communicating with a host computer, the computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect after reading said (N-x) files:

providing said (N-x) files to said host computer;

receiving a first command complete signal from said host computer.

13. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 12, wherein said article of manufacture further comprises a memory, the computer readable program code further

comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set from said host computer;

writing said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory;

generating a second command complete signal after writing said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory.

14. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 13, the computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect receiving a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD (Y,M) command, wherein (Y) comprises the number of filemarks in the (x) files.

15. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein said information storage medium comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said article of manufacture comprises a tape drive comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files comprises a file end, the computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

moving said magnetic tape in a first direction while identifying said (M) files and reading said (N) files;

stopping said magnetic tape when said tape head reaches said file end; and

moving said tape in a second direction while skipping said (M) files, wherein said first direction is opposite said second direction.

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A computer program product usable with a programmable computer processor having computer readable program code embodied therein to read (N) sequential files written to an information storage medium, and then skip the next (M) sequential files, wherein said information storage medium is disposed in a data storage device, comprising: The computer program product of claim 18, the computer readable program code further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to read the first (N-x) of said (N) files;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to identify said (M) files after reading said (N-x) files;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to read the remaining (x) files after identifying said (M) files;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to skip said (M) files after reading said remaining (x) files;

wherein (x) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N-1).

20. (original) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said data storage device is capable of communicating with a host computer, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to provide said (N-x) files to said host computer after reading said first (N-x) files and before identifying said (M) files;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a first command complete signal from said host computer before identifying said (M)

files.

21. (original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein said data storage device further comprises a memory, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command from said host computer;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to write said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a second command complete signal after writing said LOCATE LOOK AHEAD command set to said memory and prior to reading said (x) files.

22. (original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a LOCATE LOOK AHEAD (Y,M) command, wherein (Y) comprises the number of filemarks in the (x) files.

23. (original) The computer program product of claim 19, wherein said information storage medium comprises a magnetic tape, and wherein said data storage device comprises a tape drive comprising a tape head, and wherein said last of said (N) files comprises a file end, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to move said magnetic tape in a first direction during while reading said (N-x) files, identifying said (M) files, and reading said remaining (x) files;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor

to stop said magnetic tape when said tape head reaches said file end; and

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to moving said tape in a second direction while skipping said (M) files;

wherein said second direction is opposite said first direction.

24. (canceled)